

Abhay Karandikar

Prof Abhay Karandikar is currently serving as Member, NITI Aayog since May 18, 2026. He served as Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Science of Technology (DST), Ministry of Science & Technology during October 2023-May 2026. Before joining DST in October 2023, he served as the Director, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur during April 2018 to September 2023.

Prof Karandikar is an accomplished innovator, science administrator and institution builder with 100+ publications and 40 granted and filed patents to his credit. He also held prominent positions such as Head of the Electrical Engineering Department and Dean of Faculty Affairs at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay.

As Secretary, DST, he was instrumental in operationalizing many transformative initiatives of the Government of India. This includes National Quantum Mission and Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF). He also operationalized Rs 1 Lakh Crore Research, Development and Innovation Fund for supporting cutting-edge R&D in private sectors and deep tech startups.

His own research group has made some significant contributions towards AI driven Programmable Protocols for 6G. His earlier research has profound impact on starting the activities of two global IEEE standards in 5G. "IEEE 1930.1: SDN based Middleware for Control and Management of Networks" is the first IEEE standard coming out of Indian efforts led by Karandikar. The most notable impact of his research has been in the area of affordable broadband access which led to the formation of "Frugal 5G" working group in IEEE standards and another global standard- "IEEE 2061: Architecture for Low Mobility Energy Efficient Network for Affordable Broadband" under "IEEE's Standards Activities for 5G".

Prof Karandikar was the founding member and former Chairman of Telecom Standards Development Society India (TSDSI) during 2014-2018. He was also Member (Part-Time) of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) during January 2018- January 2021.

Prof Karandikar's vast experience in technology policy-making, regulation and standardization has been recognized at international levels. He served on the Board of Governors of the IEEE Standards Association (SA) from January 2022 to December 2023. Prof Karandikar was awarded with IEEE SA's Standards Medallion in December 2016. He is a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy and Indian National Academy of Engineering and Honoris Doctorate from King George Medical University.